

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

20 High Street, Brackley, Northants NN13 7DS

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To: Cllrs Baker, Cartmell, Judd, Kew, Langford, Manley, Sharps, Tiller (Chair), Watt, E Wiltshire, and Young.

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the **Direct Responsibilities and General Purposes Committee** to be held on **Monday 16 December 2024** following the Planning & General Works Committee Meeting in Brackley Town Hall, Market Place, Brackley, NN13 7AB.

11 December 2024



Town Clerk

AGENDA

Members of the press and public are invited to attend

310/24 Apologies for absence

Members are asked to receive and, if appropriate, approve apologies.

311/24 Declaration of interest

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda, and the nature of that interest, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and Brackley Town Council's Code of Conduct.

312/24 Public participation

This section of the meeting gives members of the public who are present an opportunity to speak. You may speak on any item which appears on the agenda for this evening's meeting. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the Chair of the meeting.

313/24 Approval of minutes

To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Direct Responsibilities and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 16 September 2024.

Recommendation – to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 September 2024.

314/24 Minutes of the Brackley Town Council Town Centre T&F Group

To receive the approved minutes and to considered the recommendation as listed below:

Cllr Sharps and Cllr Young request approval to comment on behalf of BTC on the WNC new local plan consultation to propose keeping commercial properties as commercial properties in Brackley town centre, rather than allowing them to be changed to residential use.

315/24 Matters for Information

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Minutes of the **Direct Responsibilities and General Purposes Committee** held on **Monday 16 September 2024** at 7pm in Brackley Town Hall, Market Place, Brackley, NN13 7AB.

Present: Cllrs G Judd, J Kew, S Langford, S Manley, B Tiller (Chair), E Wiltshire and L Young.

Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

182/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs A Bagot-Webb, F Baker, C Cartmell and A Watt.

Absent: Cllrs S Sharps and K Nash

183/24 Declaration of interest

None

184/24 Public participation

None

185/24 Approval of minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Manley, it was **RESOLVED** to:

approve the minutes of the meeting of the Direct Responsibilities and General Purposes Committee on Monday 17 June 2024.

186/24 Update on RoSPA Reports

Members received the 2024 RoSPA play area inspection summary and actions list.

187/24 Matters for Information

None.

Meeting Closed at 19:05

Signed:

Dated:

**MINUTES OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN CENTRE TASK AND FINISH GROUP
Tuesday 26th September 2023**

Present: Cllrs L Young, S Sharps, B Tiller, F Baker, J Kew
Samantha Hosking – Town Centre Manager

1. Apologies from Cllr Wiltshire
2. Approve previous Minutes – 23 Jan 2024
Footfall data in progress
Empty properties – Vacant High Street Property consultant has been appointed, starting in late October, to assist with long term empty properties.
Brackley Boots is not on the latest list of closures.
Marketing – briefing for shop local campaign design in progress.
Footfall building activities have been taking place.
Banking hub application to be discussed.
Car Park opportunities are being assessed by WNC.

Cllrs Sharps and Young to comment on WNC new Local Plan consultation to propose keeping commercial property as commercial property in Brackley, rather than allowing them to be changed to residential use.

Minutes approved: PROPOSED Cllr Kew SECONDED Cllr Young

Cllr Sharps requested a planned visit to another town that has been successful in regenerating its High Street.

Action TCM to ask Iain Nicholson, (Vacant High Street Property consultant) if he can recommend a suitable town and TCM to arrange a date.

3. Overview of TCM report to Full Council - actions and initiatives
Report was received previously by Full Council.

Trails - History trails are something we need to investigate. Cllr Sharps has noticed digital trails. TCM has been speaking to digital trails creators and obtaining ballpark costs. Would be good to have digital trail accompanied by physical signage.

Action TCM will continue to investigate.

People are following Geocaching or Pokemon GO trails in Brackley, so may be an opportunity to promote something in addition that reaches a wide range of visitors.

Marketing - Brackley needs a new printed Town Guide, with map that includes the new housing areas.

Action TCM to ask Global Mapping (Alan Smith) for permission to use existing map again so we can print new town guide with directory in new year.

Shop Local at Christmas campaign taking place now – TCM working with businesses on this.

TCM also soon to brief designer for Shop Local campaign and High Street webpage.

Gift Card Scheme – Scheme currently being investigated by TCM. Possibility of some funding from UK Shared Prosperity fund, if all 4 principal towns can work together and share the cost under a single WNC license, it could be affordable. Cllr Baker is not convinced that this is a worthwhile scheme and is concerned that Northampton would benefit more as they have more choice of businesses to spend with, yet they would be paying the same amount as Brackley. TCM is happy to review, Cllrs Young and Kew would like to see a survey of all businesses.

Cllr Young suggested a reusable Brackley branded coffee cup to be used in local cafes. Example sustainable Overton.

Action TCM to contact Overton group to see how they set this initiative up.

4. New weekend markets

Markets report sent to group members with agenda. Public survey strong response from residents asking for weekend markets. Market traders feel regular Saturday markets in other towns are seeing reducing footfall and when new e.g. regular Farmers' Markets start they have good support initially which then wanes. There is a feeling among traders that we should keep regular Market on Friday, which is successful and have event markets periodically throughout the year – e.g. Seasonal markets.

Flea markets as in Buckingham are popular. Markets could be on Saturday or Sunday. German Markets are also popular. We could try something specialist like a Vinyl record fair. **Action Cllr Sharps** to give TCM contact details of food market organiser.

TCM is concerned that there may not be time resources to be able to bring all these together, as it is time consuming to arrange stalls/entertainment. **Action TCM** to investigate 3rd party management options.

5. Public realm – adoption of street furniture

We have had issues with being able to confirm ownership of street furniture in Brackley town centre. TCM asked if there is any desire for Brackley TC to take ownership of street furniture to ensure it is well maintained. SS suggested that BTC might consider not taking on waste bins, as this would mean BTC would then be responsible for the costs of emptying them. It might be better to only take responsibility for benches for example.

Action TCM to ask Clerk to add this subject to a Full Council agenda for discussion.

A Town Centre style guide is needed to ensure signage and shop frontages are attractive and consistent. The TCM confirmed there is a WNC style guide already in place, however it is suggested that a BTC style guide should be created.

Remaining items on the agenda deferred to the next meeting.

6. Events for next year
7. Banking hub
8. Town Centre web page
9. Piazza community use

10. Any other business – None

11. Date of next meeting.

The Task & Finish Group will meet regularly on a monthly basis on a Thursday at 5.30pm. Suggested 3rd Thursday of the month, so next meeting will be 21st November 2024.

N.B. TCM suggests skipping December 19th and start meetings again on 16th January 2025.